



# A Copie of the principall parts of his Maiestie Commissions for granting of Pardons to such as vse Trades, whereto they haue not been Apprentices, and for dispensing with them to continue the same for their Liues, notwithstanding the Statute of *Quinto Elizabeth*.



AMES by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To  
all to whom these presents shall come greeting. Whereas there is nothing more pleasing to God, and profitable to the Common-wealth of this Our  
Realme, then the training vp of youth in good and commendable Arts, Trades, Sciences, and Mysteries, whereby they may be, not onely kept from  
Idleness and sloth, (the parent of all enormities) but also made apt and expert for the service of the Common-wealth, in the vse and practise of those  
Arts and mysteries wherein they haue been educated and brought vp: To which end and purpose, diuers good and wholesome lawes haue bene made  
within this Our Realme of England; as namely, in the fift yeare of the reigne of our late deare Sister of famous memory Elizabeth, late Queene of  
England, Capite quarto, a certaine Act or Statute was made, entituled, An Act touching diuers Orders for Artificers, labourers, seruants of Husbandrie, and Apprentices;  
wherein it is (amongst diuers other things) enacted, that after the fift day of May then next comming, it should not be lawfull to any person or persons (other  
then such as then did lawfully vse or exercise any Art, Myserie, or Annall occupation) to set vp, occupie, vse, or exercise any Craft, Myserie, or Occupation then  
vse, or occupied within the Realme of England or Wales, except he should haue bene brought vp therein seauen yeeres at the least as an apprentice, in manner and  
forme as in the said Statute is expressed: nor to set any person on work in such Myserie, Art, or Occupation, being not a workman at that day, except he should haue  
bene apprentice, as is aforesaid, or else hauing serued as an apprentice, as is aforesaid, should or would become a Journeyman, or hired by the yeare: Upon paine that  
every such person, willingly offending or doing the contrary, should forfeit and lose for every default, forty shillings for every moneth; As by the said Statute (a-  
mongst diuers other things) more at large appeareth. And whereas the said Statute is of great vse and importance in this Our Realme, as well for the training vp  
of youth in the knowledge and practise of sundry good and commendable Arts, Trades, Mysteries, and manuell Occupations, whereby they may liue and be maintai-  
ned, as otherwise for the benefit of our said Realme. And whereas through the neglect of the due execution of the said Statute, diuers and sundry persons within  
this our said Realme haue taken vpon them to occupie, vse, & exercise sundry Arts, Mysteries, Crafts, and manuell Occupations, wherein they haue not bin brought  
vp as apprentices, by the space of seuen yeeres, and haue also otherwise offended against the forme and intent of the said Statute: In which said Arts, Trades,  
and Mysteries, the said persons hauing now by the space of many yeeres together employed, and bestowed themselves, their labours, stocks, and industries, haue now  
attained a good and perfect knowledge and vnderstanding in the same, and are become settled in a constant Trade and condition of life, whereby they are enabled com-  
petently to maintaine themselves and families, which otherwise were like to perish, and fall into some idle and inordinate course of liuing, in case they should be now  
restrained of and from the vying and exercising of the same, or should be punished according to the true intent & meaning of the said Statute, as many of them here-  
tofore haue bene by informations and suits brought and prosecuted against them by common Informers and others, to whom they are still exposed, and lie open to  
be molested, sued, and inquieted by the like Informations and suits. Unless we out of Our Royall and Princely compassion shall provide some meanes to relieue them  
in this behalfe. Know ye therefore, that we tending the publike good of our Realmes (which especially is procured by the due execution of good and profitable  
lawes) doe hereby for vs, our Heires and Successors straightly charge, require, and command all and every our Judges and Iustices of both our Benches, Bar-  
rons of the Exchequer, Iustices of the Peace, Mayors, Sherifes, Bayliffes, and all and every other Magistrates, and other Officers, for the time being, to whom  
it shall or may appertaine, That they and every of them in their severall places respectively, doe take care, and from henceforth see to the due execution of the said  
Statute, as well touching the training vp of apprentices in commendable Arts and Mysteries, (whereby they may not be suffered to liue idly and inordinately, but  
being therein well instructed in their apprenticeships may after wardes become profitable members and seruiceable to the Common-wealth) as in the restraining of  
others, (not so trained and brought vp) from the practise and exercise of any Art, Trade, or Myserie, contrary to the said recited Statute, or any branch or clause  
therein contained: vnder the paines and penalties expressed in the same, which hereafter we will shalbe duly leued and executed vpon such as shalbe found offen-  
ders therein. Neuertheless, we being graciously pleased to extend our Royall fauour towarde such of our Subjects, as hauing heretofore taken vpon them, and  
are now become settled and expert in the vse and practise of Trades, Artes, Mysteries, and manuell Occupations, wherunto they haue not bene brought vp as ap-  
prentices, as aforesaid, according to the forme of the said Statute, as well by pardoning their offences in that behalfe past, as also by licencing and dispensing with them  
for continuing the same Arts and Trades for the time to come, for and during their liues, And minding to free and acquit them for ever from those molestations, sues,  
and troubles which they haue been heretofore and might hereafter be put vnto by Informers, and others, by meanes of the premises, in case they shall not embrace our  
Princely grace in this behalfe. And willing that the rigor of the said Statute shall not be exacted or inflicted vpon such of our loving Subjects, as haue transgres-  
sed the said Statute, and lie open and exposed to the penalties thereof, as are willing and desirous to take hold of and embrace this our grace and bounty so fa-  
uourably and benignely proffered them. Know ye therefore, that we of our especiall grace, certaine knowledge, and merite motion, haue ordained, authorised, na-  
med, & appointed, and by these presents for vs, our Heires, and Successors, doo graunte, authorize, name, and appoint Our trustie and wel-beloued Sir James Spens  
Knight, Archibald Primrose Esquire, Henry Goldsmith Esquire, and Robert More Esquire, to be Our Commissioners for and during the terme of seven yeeres from the  
date of these presents, And we doe give vnto them the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or to any two or more of them,



whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) full power and authority by all lawfull waies or meanes, to inquire and informe themselves of all such person and persons being Tradesmen and Artificers, which before the date of these presents have used, exercised, erected, or set up any Art, Trade, Mystery, or manuell Occupation, wherunto they have not been bound or served as Apprentices, according to the forme of the said recited Statute, and thereupon to treat, contract, compound, and agree with all and every such person and persons, as hath or have before the date hereof used, erected, or set up, any Trade, Art, Mystery, or manuell Occupation, contrary to the forme and effect of the said recited Statute, for such reasonable rates, summes of money, fine and fines, yearly payments, or annuities, as they shall thinke fit, for pardons, licences, and dispensations to be made and granted from Us, Our Heires, and Successors, vnder the great Seale of England, in manner hereafter expressed, to all and every such person or persons offenders against the said Statute, as shall desire the same, as well for pardoning his or their offences past, as for licensing and dispensing with him and them to use and exercise such Arts, Trades, Mysteries, or manuell Occupations which he or they respectively now doe, or any time before the date hereof have used, set up, or exercised, for and during the time and space of his and their naturall life and liues, without fute, Information, trouble, or molestation to be had or prosecuted against him or them, for or concerning the same by any Informers or others, or for or concerning any paine, penaltie, or forfeiture, mentioned or contained in the said Statute, by reason of any offence committed, perpetrated, or done contrary to the forme and effect of the same, or any other Statute in that behalfe made to the contrary: And that it shall and may be lawfull to and for the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) to contract, compound, and agree with the said offenders, and every of them, as well before Informations, as after Informations against them exhibited in any Court whatsoever, for so much thereof as shall concerne Our part, and that before or after plea, or by or without any leave, licence, or warrant of the Court, where any such Informations shall be exhibited, any Law, Statute, Constitution, or Ordinance made to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And furthermore, of Our especiall grace, certaine knowledge, and meere motion, we doe for Us, Our Heires and Successors, by these presents give and grant full power and authoritie to Our Atturney Generall for the time being, to prepare and draw up in due forme of law, so many bills or bookes of pardons, licences, and dispensations, for and in the name of Us, Our Heires, and Successors, during the time aforesaid, to be ingrossed and passed vnder Our Great Seale of England, as shalbe desired by the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them, (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) for all such person or persons, as they Our said Commissioners, or any two or more of them, (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) shall compound and agree with, for and concerning any the paines, penalties, offences, matters, causes, and premisses aforesaid. Provided alwayes that in every such severall pardon, licence, or dispensation to be prepared, and passed vnder Our great Seale as aforesaid, there shall not be contained or inserted about the number of thirtie persons at the most. And Our further Will and pleasure is, And we doe hereby for Us, Our Heires, and Successors, grant, will, and ordaine, that all and every such pardon, licence, or dispensation, as shall be so made or granted as aforesaid, shalbe good, sufficient, and effectual in law to all and every such person or persons to whom the same shall be made and granted, to authorize, enable, and warrant him and them to the free use and exercise of all such Trades, Arts, Mysteries, and manuell Occupations which he or they at the date of these Our Letters Patents, or at any time before did use or exercise, wherunto he or they neuer learned, or were bound as Apprentices, according to the forme of the said Statute, without being sued, molested, questioned, or any way troubled, or enquired by Us, Our Heires, or Successors, or by any the Judges, Justices of either of Our Benches, Barons of Our Exchequer, or Our Atturney Generall for the time being, or by any other the Officers, Ministers, and Subjects of Us, Our Heires, or Successors, for, touching, or concerning the practising, using, & exercising of his or their said Arts, Trades, Mysteries, or manuell Occupations as aforesaid, contrary to the purport of the said recited Statute, or any other Statute in that behalfe made; The said Statute of Quinto Elizabeth; or any clause therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. In which said Letters Patents, or discharge, pardons, and licences of dispensations to be so drawne, or made to any person or persons compounded with as aforesaid, we will shall be contained therein a clause of expresse charge and command in the name of Us, our Heires and Successors, to the Judges and Justices of both our Benches, Barons of Our Exchequer, Atturney Generall, Justices of Peace, Maiors, Bayliffes, Aldermen, Sheriffes, Escheatores, and all other Officers and Ministers to whom it may or shall appertaine, in their severall offices and places respectively, that they and every of them respectively, in their severall offices and places, vpon the sight or shewing forth of any such pardon, licence, or dispensation, or the inrolment, constat, or exemplification thereof, or a true Coppie of the same signed with the hands of the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) testifying the same, shall forthwith disallow and discharge all Informations, suites, bills, plaints, Judgements, and actions whatsoever, which are or shall be mooved, stirred, commenced, sued, or prosecuted against all or any of the said persons so compounded with, pardoned, licensed, and dispensed with as aforesaid, for or touching any offence or offences, committed, perpetrated, or done contrary to the forme of the said Statute, or any branch or clause therein contained. And to give order that no further proccesse or proceedings shall be had or awarded against them or any of them in that behalfe: And these presents shalbe to our said Judges, Justices, Barons of Our Exchequer, Atturney Generall, and all other Our said Officers, a sufficient warrant and discharge for the doing and performing of the premisses, according to the tenor and true meaning of these presents. And Our further Will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby requite and charge, that from time to time, and at all times hereafter, Our Judges and Justices of either of Our Benches, Barons of Our Exchequer, & Our Atturney Generall, and all Justices of Peace, as well within liberties as without, Maiors, Bayliffes, Aldermen, and chiefe Magistrates of Citties, Boroughes, and Townes Corporate, Sheriffes, Escheatores, and all others, to whom it shall or may appertaine, That they and every of them respectively in their severall offices and places, shall at all and every time and times hereafter, accept, approue, and allow in all and every Our Court and Courts of Record, and other place and places, as well of all and every such Letters Patents of pardon, licences, & dispensations, vnder the Great Seale of England, so to be made and granted as aforesaid, as of the inrolment, Constat, or exemplification thereof, or of a true Coppie of the same, vnder the hands of the said Sir James Spens, Archibald Primrose, Henry Goldsmith, and Robert More, or any two or more of them (whereof the said Sir James Spens, or Archibald Primrose to be one) testifying that the said person or persons have compounded and received his Maesties pardon, licence, or dispensation as aforesaid, as a good, full, and sufficient barre, release, dispensation, and discharge against Us, Our Heires, and Successors, without pleading the said pardon, licence, or dispensation at large, of, for, or concerning any penalties, or forfeitures accrued, or hereafter to be accrued vnto Us, Our Heires, or Successors, by or from any person or persons, named in the said Letters patents of pardon, licence, and dispensation for any of the offences and breaches of them or any of them respectively committed against the said Statute aboue recited, or any clause or article therein contained. In witness whereof we have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents, witness Our selfe at Westminster the fourth day of February, in the sixteenth yeere of Our Saigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.